

## I. AMENDMENTS

Please amend claim 44 as follows:

44. (Amended) A method for analyzing an arthropod sample for the presence of one or more analytes associated with an arthropod-carried agent that causes a disease in mammals, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining an arthropod sample suspected of containing arthropod-borne agents;

(b) grinding the sample in solution to expose an analyte associated with the arthropod-carried agent such that the sample contains a liquid phase and arthropod debris after grinding;

(c) contacting a liquid permeable support with the sample containing arthropod debris from step (b) and a detectable analyte-specific reagent that binds to the analyte to form an analyte - reagent complex, wherein said support comprises, in order:

(i) a sample pad adapted for receipt of the sample;

(ii) at least one conjugate pad having immobilized thereto a capture reagent that binds to the analyte or the analyte-specific reagent or the analyte-specific reagent complex;

(iii) an absorbent pad adapted to facilitate vertical liquid flow along the liquid permeable support;

wherein the liquid permeable support does not include a filter to remove cellular debris or particulate matter;

(d) allowing the liquid phase to vertically move through the support by capillary flow or wicking until the analyte or the analyte-specific reagent or the analyte-specific reagent complex binds to the capture reagent; and

(e) detecting the presence of the detectable analyte-specific reagent indicating the presence of the analyte in the sample.